

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

None.

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below.

Claims 1 to 17 (Canceled)

18. (Previously Amended) A self-adhering surface covering comprising:

a substrate;

a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer disposed on the substrate and having an adhesive surface located distally from the substrate, the adhesive layer comprising an adhesive, the adhesive being substantially non-stringing; and

a barrier layer disposed substantially on and covering between about 1% and about 10% of the adhesive surface, wherein the barrier layer comprises a plurality of particles, the particles being substantially non-adhesive, wherein the barrier layer exhibits a crush resistance of at least about 10 psi, and wherein the particles are selected from the group consisting of solid particles, porous particles and combinations thereof.

19. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles are randomly and substantially uniformly distributed over the surface of the adhesive layer.

20. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein at least some of the particles are distributed on the adhesive surface in a pattern.

21. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles have a diameter about equal to or greater than the thickness of the adhesive layer.

22. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles have a diameter at least greater than the thickness of the adhesive layer.

23. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles have a diameter between about 2 to about 6 mils.

24. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles are distributed onto the adhesive surface in an amount between about 0.05 and about 0.2 grams/ft² of adhesive surface.

25. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles are distributed onto the adhesive surface in an amount between about 0.01 and about 0.1 cm³/ft² of adhesive surface.

Claim 26 (Canceled)

27. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles cover about 2% of the adhesive surface of the adhesive layer.

28. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles are collapsible or fragile under conditions employed for pressure-bonding the surface covering to a desired site of bonding.

29. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the adhesive layer is capable of supporting a load of up to about 20 psi prior to the particles being crushed.

30. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness between about 1 and about 2 mils.

31. (Previously Amended) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprises an adhesive selected from natural rubber adhesives, synthetic rubber adhesives, acrylic adhesives, vinyl acetate adhesives, urethane adhesives, and mixtures thereof.

32. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprises an e-beam curable adhesive comprising tridecyl acrylate and acrylic acid.

33. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein at least some of the particles are partially embedded in the adhesive layer.

34. (Original) The surface covering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the particles are capable of substantially resisting crushing upon being subjected to a load of about 60 lb/ft² which is dropped a vertical distance of about 1 foot.

Claims 35 to 54 (Canceled)

55. (Previously Amended) The surface covering of claim 18, wherein the non-adhesive particles are selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, barium carbonate, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, aluminum sulfate, molybdenum disulfide, titanium oxide, aluminum hydroxide, alumina, silica, magnesium oxide, calcium oxide, calcium hydroxide, ferrous oxide, ferric oxide, cured rubbers, ebonite, resins, and combinations thereof.

56. (Previously Added) The surface covering of claim 18, wherein the substrate is substantially rigid.

57. (Previously Added) The surface covering of claim 18, wherein the barrier layer further comprises a second plurality of particles, the particles of the second plurality being substantially non-adhesive hollow particles.